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PAGE 01 STATE 089461
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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KASUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089461

E.O. 12065: GDS, 4/2/88 (WILCOX, PHIL), IO
TAGS: ECOSOC, PORG, SHUM, SREF, AF
SUBJECT: ECOSOC AND AFGHANISTAN

REF: (A) STATE 43982 (NOTAL); (B) GENEVA 2144 (NOTAL);
(C) ISLAMABAD 2768 (NOTAL); (D) USUN NEW YORK 935 (NOTAL)

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. REVIEW OF REFTELS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT WHILE PAKISTAN
MAY FAVOR IN PRINCIPLE THE CONCEPT OF A WIDE RANGING
DISCUSSION OF AFGHANISTAN AT THE SPRING ECOSOC, IT APPEARS
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PAGE 02 STATE 089461

RELUCTANT TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE IT.

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3. FOLLOWING IS OUR READOUT OF PAK POSITION

-- DOES NOT SEEM TO FAVOR INCLUDING AFGHAN REFUGEES AS A SUB-ITEM UNDER THE SPECIAL RELIEF AGENDA ITEM. (THE AFRICANS BELIEVE THIS TO BE "THEIR" ITEM AND WOULD RESENT INCLUSION OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE QUESTION.)
-- APPEARS NOT OPPOSED TO A SEPARATE UMBRELLA ITEM ON AFGHANISTAN, AND MIGHT WANT TO TAKE THE LEAD ON IT.
-- BELIEVES THAT THE AFGHANISTAN ISSUE WILL ARISE IN ANY CASE DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REPORT. MAY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS ADEQUATE COVERAGE FOR AFGHANISTAN AT SPRING ECOSOC.

4. FOR ISLAMABAD: REFS B AND D BOTH POINT TO NEED TO CONSULT SECRETARY GENERAL PIRACHA ON THE SUBJECT. GIVEN THE URGENT NEED TO WORK OUT OUR ECOSOC STRATEGY, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SOUNDING HIM OUT AND REPORTING SOONEST.

5. FOR GENEVA: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS. IS THE SPRING ECOSOC ITEM MEANT ONLY FOR AFRICAN REFUGEE-RELATED CONCERNS? WILL THERE BE ANOTHER REFUGEE-RELATED ITEM ON THE SUMMER AGENDA?

6. WE STILL BELIEVE THAT THERE IS GREAT VALUE IN DISCUSSING AFGHANISTAN ON SEVERAL FRONTS AT THE SPRING ECOSOC. FIRST, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A DISCUSSION OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE PROBLEM WITHOUT AN ASSOCIATED CALL FOR A PLEDGING CONFERENCE UNDER THE REFUGEE SUBITEM. SECOND, THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN WOULD QUITE
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PAGE 03

STATE 089461

NATURALLY BE BROUGHT UP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNHRC REPORT. THIRD, AN UMBRELLA ITEM TOWARDS THE END OF THE SPRING SESSION, WHEN THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN COULD BE ADDRESSED, WOULD PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR FOCUSING APPROPRIATE ATTENTION ON THIS CRITICAL ISSUE. (THEMES WHICH MIGHT LOGICALLY BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE UMBRELLA ITEM WERE LISTED REF A.)

7. PAKISTAN'S APPARENT DESIRE TO HAVE ALL AFGHANISTAN-

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RELATED DISCUSSION IN CONTEXT OF THE UNHRC REPORT DOES NOT SEEM TO US TO BE ADEQUATE. A DISCUSSION ARISING IN THIS CONNECTION WOULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FRAMEWORK FOR FOCUSING CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON AFGHANISTAN ONLY REPEAT ONLY IF IT WERE TO LEAD TO A STRONG AFGHANISTAN RESOLUTION. WE DOUBT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. AN UNSTRUCTURED DEBATE WITHOUT CONCRETE OUTCOME WOULD BE OF LITTLE VALUE.

8. IT MAY BE THAT AN EMERGING PAKISTANI RELUCTANCE TO ALWAYS BE UP FRONT ON THE AFGHANISTAN ISSUE IS SHOWING THROUGH IN GOP'S APPARENT LACK OF ENTHUSIASM ON ECOSOC THIS TIME. (THE PAKS MOST RECENTLY TOOK THE LEADERSHIP ROLE AT THE UNHRC MEETING IN GENEVA IN FEB-MARCH WHICH RESULTED IN SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN.) THIS MAY THEREFORE BE AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT TO SEEK ANOTHER NONALIGNED STATE, PREFERABLY ISLAMIC, TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE TOPIC. WE LIKE REF B'S SUGGESTION THAT WE APPROACH MOROCCO,

Blas-

9. FOR ISLAMABAD AND RABAT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY RABAT'S APPROACHING MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD
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PAGE 04 STATE 089461

BE WILLING TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN ECOSOC MEETING ON THIS ISSUE, IF PAKISTAN CONTINUES TO BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO. EMBASSY ISLAMABAD MAY WISH TO TELL PAKISTANIS THAT WE ARE ALSO DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH THE MOROCCANS

Blas-

10. WE ARE REPEATING TO RABAT THE REFERENCES LISTED ABOVE NOT ALREADY SENT THERE.

11. COMMENTS OF OTHER ADDRESSEES WELCOME. HAIG

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